

A.

Report of J. C. DALTON, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

The Steamer Chase left New York on Saturday Evening, March 11th, for Beaufort Harbor and Wilmington, N. C., laden with beef stock, condensed milk, onions, potatoes, pickles, and other similar articles, together with an abundance of flannel under-clothing and blankets. It was intended to discharge the cargo, in whole, or in part, at either Beaufort Harbor or Wilmington, as the necessities of the case might make it desirable. It was anticipated that the wants of the sick and wounded from Gen. Schofield's Corps, and possibly, also from Gen. Sherman's Army, then moving in a north-easterly direction on its way from Columbia, would be best relieved from the direction of Beaufort; while the necessities of our returned prisoners, recently delivered at Wilmington would require supplies at the last named point.

On entering Beaufort Harbor, where the Steamer arrived on the afternoon of Tuesday the 14th, a large number of transports were found waiting, partly discharged and partly still laden with supplies and material. Gen. Schofield's Corps, which had been transferred by sea from Wilmington to Beaufort, had advanced to Newbern and thence, along the line of the railroad, toward Goldsboro. At the time of our arrival it had reached a point within a few miles of Kinston, where it had come in contact with the enemy, and repulsed him after a somewhat severe engagement on the 10th and 11th instants. The efficient agents of the Commission were accordingly then at the front, doing all in their power to aid in relieving the wounded from this engagement; and Dr. Agnew soon learned by communications from them that their supplies were already sufficient for that particular emergency. The railroad from Morehead City, in Beaufort Harbor, to Newbern and Kinston was then entirely in the hands of a construction corps, which

was actively engaged in relaying the track and getting the road in running order to the rear of Gen. Schofield's advancing columns, and it was impossible to obtain transportation over this road even to Newbern, except for material required for the construction of the road itself, and supplies absolutely essential for the subsistence of the army. The only other mode of sending to Newbern was to go round by way of Hatteras Inlet and the Neuse River, but this could only be done by vessels of much lighter draft than the Chase. It was decided therefore to discharge a part of the cargo upon a schooner, which could remain in Beaufort Harbor as a Store-ship and from which such supplies as were needed at Newbern could be sent round from time to time on lighters, by way of Hatteras Inlet. The remaining, and larger portion of the cargo was to be taken immediately to Wilmington in the Chase for the use of the returned prisoners. These arrangements were completed by the evening of Friday the 17th. By that time we learned that Gen. Schofield had again advanced and had occupied Kinston without further opposition.

On Saturday, 18th inst., at noon, the Chase left Beaufort Harbor and arrived off the bar, at the entrance of Cape Fear River before daylight, on Sunday, the 19th. At 11 A. M. she crossed the bar, and came to her dock at Wilmington early in the afternoon of the same day.

At Wilmington, we found 3,940 sick and wounded men, including the returned prisoners, whose condition was such that they were all to be regarded as sick men, and urgently in need of comfort and relief. Of the whole number to be cared for there were about 2,000 sick belonging to the command of Gen. Terry (who had moved directly North after the capture of Wilmington, on the line of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad), and about 600 from Gen. Sherman's army, who had been sent down the north-western branch of the Cape Fear River, a few days previously, from Fayetteville. The remainder consisted of our returned prisoners, 1,250 in number. Corrected returns, subsequently received, show the number of returned prisoners to have been twenty-four hundred and